This project was jointly conceived by the Department of Space and Department of Agriculture and Cooperation during the Ninth Plan. Some delay has taken place because of technical reasons like development of various methods and technologies of using remote sensing data for estimating area and production for several crops and its review by various expert groups and committees.

(d) The project aims to strengthen the comprehensiveness, timeliness and realiability of information on agriculture output and other related aspects. This information will enable better management of agricultural sector and efficient use of resources. The benefits of efficient agricultural sector will accrue to all categories of farmers, large as well as small and marginal.

Replacing vessels of Fisheries Survey of India

†1763. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vessels available with Fisheries Survey of India and the details of amout spent on their repairs during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to declare these vessels as unusable and to purchase new vessels in their place;

(c) if so, by when new vessels are likely to be purchased; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) At present Fishery Survey of India has 15 fishing vessels in possession. The expenditure incurred on repair of fishing vessels of Fisheries Survey of India during the last three financial years is as under:—

Year	Expenditure incurred
1999-2000	Rs. 1,07,07,638/-
2000-2001	Rs. 6,42,28,410/-
2001-2002	Rs. 4,20,45,980/-

(b) to (d) Two vessels manufactured in 1979 and 1981 have been proposed for decommissioning. Action for replacement of two vessels proposed to be decommissioned has already been initiated. Global tenders have been invited for purchase of two fishing vessels. These two new fishing vessels are expected to be acquired by the end of financial year 2003-2004.

Exploitation of Water resources

†1764. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of indiscriminate exploitation of water resources and lack of water conservation in 90 villages of plateau area of Malwa, including Devas district in Madhya Pradesh, a severe drought situation is prevailing there and as a consequence, eighty thousand adivasis are suffering;

(b) whether such kind of crises are developing in other areas of country due to indiscriminate exploitation of water resources; and

(c) if so, the measures taken to resolve such water crises and future scheme formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per Central Ground Water Board, Ministry of Water Resources the ground water level of Malwa Belt of Devas district in Madhya Pradesh has gone down due to third consecutive failure of monsoon and uncontrolled exploitation of ground water. This has adversely affected the yield of tube-wells and hand-pumps in the Malwa region including Devas district and has resulted in shortage of water for various uses to the local population. Similar situation has also been observed in other parts of the country as details enclosed. (*see* below)

(c) Government of India through Ministry of Water Resources has launched three main pilot projects in Dewas distrcit i.e. Sub-Surface Dykes (Londhari Nala), Roof Top Rainwater Harvesting (Dewas Town) and Recharge Shafts (Village ponds at five location in Dewas district) for conservation and recharge of ground water.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.